

5.0 OTHER REQUIRED CEQA SECTIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION TO ADDITIONAL CEQA REQUIREMENTS DISCUSSED IN THIS SECTION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires evaluations of potentially significant environmental impacts, irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources, and project related growth-inducing impacts. The following sections evaluate the proposed Project in light of these requirements.

5.2 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT THAT CANNOT BE MITIGATED TO LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT

Section 15126.2(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) describe any significant impacts that cannot be avoided, even with the implementation of feasible mitigation measures. Effects on environmental resources were evaluated to determine any significant unavoidable impacts. Approval of the Project would be subject to a Statement of Overriding Considerations under the CEQA due to the significant unavoidable impacts that would remain after mitigation is applied.

Almost all the significant unavoidable impacts that cannot be mitigated (Class I) are the result of an accidental release of crude oil. The proposed Project would allow continued barging of crude oil from the Ellwood Marine Terminal (EMT) up to the permitted limits. The Project would increase loading operations, including the hours per year that the loading pumps are operating, and that the barge Jovalan is operating offshore. Implementation of the Project would mean that the number of trips the barge Jovalan makes to the EMT would increase by approximately five trips per year during the first year of operations reducing to an additional 2 trips per year by 2013. This increase in loading operations would increase the frequency of spills to the environment over the current operations. As discussed in detail in Section 4.0, Environmental Analysis, an accidental release of crude oil would result in significant impacts to safety, marine and onshore water quality; marine and onshore biological resources; land use and recreation; visual resources; and environmental justice, through potential impacts to commercial and recreational fishermen. A number of mitigation measures were identified that would reduce the frequency and consequences of spills; however, the risk of spills to the environment would still increase over current operations and could not be completely reduced to below a level of significance. In addition to impacts created by oil spills, significant impacts regarding geologic resources and air quality are anticipated through implementation of the proposed Project.

5.3 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WOULD BE IRREVERSIBLE IF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED

Section 15126.2(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that significant irreversible environmental changes that would be involved with a proposed project may include the following:

- Uses of non-renewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project, which would be irreversible because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or non-use thereafter unlikely;
- Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts which commit future generations to similar uses; and
- Irreversible damage, which may result from environmental accidents associated with the project.

The purpose of the proposed Project is to produce crude oil from the PRC 421. Thus, the Project, by definition, involves development of and production from non-renewable resources. Implementation of the proposed Project would also involve the consumption of some non-renewable and locally limited natural resources, i.e., fossil fuels associated with crude oil transport. However, the main goal of the proposed Project is to accommodate the development of non-renewable oil resources through existing infrastructure. However, in the context of local, regional and global energy production and consumption, the proposed use and production of non renewable fossil fuels associated with the project would not considered a large commitment for the use of such resources, but would incrementally contribute to the continued use of and reliance upon such non-renewable resources. The proposed Project is the recommissioning of State Lease PRC 421 for 12 years using existing infrastructure. No new facilities are proposed. Modifications to existing wells, Well 421-1 and Well 421-2, and improvements to the pipeline which connect PRC 421 to Line 96 are proposed. However, these modifications would allow production at PRC 421, which is an action that is consistent with historical production from this facility. As such, no large scale new impacts associated with the Project commit future generations to similar uses; the facilities and uses already exist.

Should the truck transportation alternative be selected, a loading rack would be constructed at the EOF and an unloading rack would be constructed in at the ROSF. However, approval of offshore separation-processing could be interpreted to partially reverse long-standing local policy initiatives to eliminate offshore “processing” of oil in

favor of the use of consolidate onshore facilities. In addition, should the project be required to rely upon trucking during its last phase of production, the policy modifications required to accommodate this option may also reverse recent policy direction. Thus, both these actions may have the potential commit future generations to such actions. Finally, while the project would only contribute a minor increase in oil production and consumption, it would continue the trend of reliance on non-renewable fossil fuel consumption with the project's contribution to associated local and larger scale environmental impacts such as global warming as discussed in Air Quality (Section 4.4)

The proposed Project could result in oil spills that have the potential to create irreversible impacts to environmental resources. Potential impacts can be reduced through use of adequate design and operating procedures and effective emergency response plans specifying staffing and equipment needs. However, the potential remains for significant impacts as a result of an oil spill associated with the proposed Project.

5.4 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Section 15126.2(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that growth-inducing impacts of the proposed Project must be discussed in the EIR. In general terms, a project may induce spatial, economic, or population growth in a geographic area if it meets any one of the four criteria identified below:

- Removal of an impediment to growth, e.g., establishment of an essential public service or the provisions of new access to an area;
- Economic expansion or growth, e.g., changes in revenue base or employment expansion;
- Establishment of a precedent-setting action, e.g., an innovation, a change in zoning, or general plan amendment approval; or
- Development or encroachment in an isolated area or one adjacent to open space (being different from an "infill" type of project).

Should a project meet any one of the criteria listed above, it can be considered growth inducing. The impacts of the proposed Project are evaluated below with regard to these four growth-inducing criteria.

The proposed Project is the recommissioning of State Lease PRC 421 for 12 years using existing infrastructure. No new facilities are proposed. Modifications to existing

1 wells, Well 421-1 and Well 421-2, and improvements to the pipeline which connect PRC
2 421 to Line 96 are proposed. However, these modifications would allow production at
3 PRC 421, which is an action that is consistent with historical production from this facility.
4 Additionally, should the truck transportation alternative be selected, a loading rack
5 would be constructed at the EOF and an unloading rack would be constructed in
6 Carpinteria. The Project would increase the volume of oil being transported through
7 Line 96, the Ellwood Marine Terminal (EMT), and barge Jovalan over what is occurring
8 under current baseline conditions, however, the increased volumes would not exceed
9 the volumes permitted for the existing facilities.

10 The proposed Project would not remove an impediment to growth or result in the
11 establishment of an essential public service, and it would not provide new access to an
12 area previously inaccessible. The Project would not result in increased employment in
13 the area. No increase in personnel is proposed as part of the Project. The operational
14 activities would result in an increase in the revenue base for the State of California and
15 the Santa Barbara County via oil and gas royalties sharing. However, economic growth
16 associated with the Project is not considered to be significant.

17 The Project would not establish a precedent-setting action such as a change in zoning
18 or an innovation. Nor would the Project develop or encroach in an isolated area or one
19 adjacent to open space. The piers at PRC 421, originally constructed in 1928, are a
20 legal non-conforming use; however the wells on the piers are located below the mean-
21 high-tide line and therefore are under the jurisdiction of CSLC and not the city of Goleta
22 and therefore the city zoning designations do not apply. Development of open space is
23 considered growth inducing when it encroaches upon urban-rural interfaces or in
24 isolated localities. All surface project activities would be limited to the existing
25 developed facilities. However, approval of offshore separation-processing could
26 contribute to pressure to partially remove or reverse long-standing local policy initiatives
27 to eliminate offshore "processing" of oil in favor of the use of consolidate onshore
28 facilities. In addition, should the project be required to rely upon trucking during its last
29 phase of production, the policy modifications required to accommodate this option may
30 also remove or reverse recent policy direction. Thus, both of these actions may have
31 the potential establish or reverse precedents and possibly require amendments to or
32 revised interpretations of general plan polices and zoning ordinance provisions.
33 However, the proposed Project would not foster economic or population growth, or the
34 construction of additional housing in the surrounding environment. Accordingly, the
35 Project is not considered to be growth inducing.